

The only way for bells to be declared non-dominant is if they gave up control over the last mile and handed it over to a local government or non-profit (cooperative) entity. Otherwise, their de-facto monopoly power over their respective service areas means that they are, and will continue to be, dominant competitors.

That reclassification is even up for suggestion is ludicrous. I pay \$20 for a single phone line, with all those taxes and other nonsense combined. I pay \$27 for a second phone line for faxes. This is crazy, given that my friend a mere mile away pays about \$8 less (he's in Pac Bell territory.) In other words, I pay what my local carrier believes the market will bear, because they simply do NOT have any competition to speak of. I can't move my number to a different carrier, despite paying a "number portability fee" on each of my phone bills every month. The one service that I do get from an alternate provider is DSL via Covad, and I doubt they'd last very long without having access to the local loop and CO under the current terms of regulated competition.